

Prometheus and Satan, Pandora and Eve,
the Fall of the
Titans and the Harrowing of Hell— such
minor parallels
between Hesiod and Langland are easy to
multiply. But
parallels in literature are mainly curiosities;
it is the dif-
ferences behind the likenesses that are
really revealing.
And here they are immense, from the very
first lines of the
Theogony:

Mouo-dcov *EAIKcovid5cov ocpxcfc^* dsfSstv,
aid' 'EAIKc5vo\$ ^ (oucnnv 6po\$ nfycc TE jdSedv TS,
Kaf TS Trspl Kpi^vrjv ioeiSea tr6aa' drraAoicnv
6pxeOvrca, xal pcou6v Epia6sve"o\$ Kpovfcovo\$*
Kaf TE Aoearaduisvai Tipeva XP&x TTepHTjaolo,
s, r| 'OAuetoO jad^oio,
rcp 'EXiKcovi x^P^S Svenoi^crccvTO
s, iire^cbaocvTO 6^ iroaaiv.
IvOev daropvOiasvai, KeKaXuji^ai fj^pt iroAArj,
4wirx'lo^ OTSIXOV, TreptKcxAX^a 6craav igicrcn,
Onveuaai Ala T* alyloxov, ml ir6Tvtocv "
'Apyeirjv, xp^oi
KoOpTjv T* alyi6xoto Ai6\$ yX
Oolp dv T* 'AirdAAcova, Kd "
f|8^ TToastS&covcc yaii^oxov, Iwoaiyotiov,
Kal 9^tv a!5o(r|V, iXtKo(3X^9ocp6v T* '

TS ^iyocv, AaunrpA;
T6v 76, 18s Kp6vov
fccidv T', *OOK6cxv6v TE n^yotv, Kal N\>KTCX l
fiAAcov T* dOccvdrcov !sp6v y^voj aliv
At v^r iroO* 'HaioSov KaAfiv f6(Safav
dpvas Trotjjiocivova' *EAIKcovos Cmr6 306^010.
T6v5e 5^ lx TTpcbTtora 6eal irp6s uOOov Ignrav
Movaai 'OAuijiTnASsj, KoOpat Ai6\$ alyidxoto*
fiypauAoi, kok* SA^yxa, yacrr^p6\$ olov,
TtoAAd Aiyisv i-ntyoiicnv 6^ota*
8*, eOr' w&G&IKV, &Ar)0ta pvW|craa6oci.
*^S ?9aaav Kovpat
UOI OrKfiTTTpOV ISOV,